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MR. SPEAKER :—" This is a general question. The main question is about a particular district. If the Hon. Minister is prepared to answer, I have no objection."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" May I know when the first report was made, and whether any report was sent to the Police to take up investigation of the case instead of asking the Co-operative Registrar to enquire into the case? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, a departmental enquiry is first necessary to decide whether the case has to be referred to the Police."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" இந்தப் புகாரை யார் கொடுத்தாரோ அவருக்கு, இந்த விசாரணை நடந்த காலத்திலே, தன்னுடைய கட்சியை எடுத்துச் சொல்வதற்கு சந்தர்ப்பம் அளிக்கப்பட்டதா ?

My question is—' Was the person who gave the complaint given an opportunity to place his case before the Departmental Officer? ' "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I cannot give all that information, now, Sir." (Laughter.)

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" My question was not answered by the Hon. Minister, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Let the hon. Member give notice of a fresh question."

Illicit cutting of forest trees and coupe at Pudupatty village in Rasipuram taluk, Salem district.

* 1107 *Q.*—SRI S. RAMALINGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government received any representation on 13th December 1953 from the villagers of Pudupatty village in Rasipuram taluk of Salem district about illicit cutting of forest trees and coupe; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The Government did not receive any representation from the villagers of Pudupatty on 13th December 1953. The Chief Conservator of Forests received a petition, dated 31st December 1953, from one Sri Kuppanna Gounder of Pudupatty post.

" (*b*) A report is awaited from the Chief Conservator of Forests."

Issue of gun licences in South Kanara.

* 1108 *Q.*—SRI K. VENKATRAMANA GOWDA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total number of gun licences issued in South Kanara up to December 1951;

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(*b*) how many of them were cancelled subsequently and the reasons therefor;

(*c*) whether the Government have issued any instructions to reduce the number of gun licences held by the people or to restrict the issue of new licences; and

(*d*) if so, why?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) 1,565.

" (*b*) It is not possible to furnish the information as the connected records of the year 1951 in the Collector's office have been destroyed under the rules.

" (*c*) No, Sir.

" (*d*) Does not arise."

SRI K. VENKATRAMANA GOWDA :—" Sir, in view of the general complaint that the Police officials do not give just reports when applications for arms licences are enquired into by them, will the Government consider the desirability of discontinuing this course and causing such enquiries being made in future through the officials of the Revenue department? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, a sweeping allegation against the Police department, I do not think, is warranted. But still I shall look into the matter. As a matter of fact, we have issued instructions that, as far as agriculturists are concerned, these licences should be issued without much difficulty."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know, Sir, the procedure adopted before a licence is either granted or refused? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, the applicant's status is taken into consideration with reference to his reliability, his ability to keep the weapon safe from theft or misuse and his need for such a weapon. If on the enquiry made on this basis, it is found that a weapon is necessary for the applicant, the licence is granted."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" கம்யூனிஸ்ட் கட்சி அனுதாபி என்ற காரணத்திற்காகவோ அல்லது கம்யூனிஸ்ட் அபேட்சகராக நாமிநேஷன் பத்திரத்தில் கையெழுத்திட்டார் என்ற காரணத்திற்காகவோ துப்பாக்கி வைத்துக்கொள்வதற்கு லைசென்ஸ் கொடுக்க மறுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது என்பது சர்க்காருக்கு தெரியுமா ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, I do not think such a case has arisen. But still if it comes within any of the prohibitions laid down in the Act, certainly the licence will be refused. A person known to believe in violence and is likely to resort to violent action, certainly will not be granted a gun licence."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Sir, is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that in many cases in Chingleput district, these licences were refused to the applicants on the pretext that they did not

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serve as Police touts in detecting crimes in villages and is the Hon. Minister also aware of the fact that these officials do not adduce any reason for such refusal which is *ultra vires* of the Constitution according to the judgment of the High Court of Madras? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" If it is about Chingleput district, let the hon. Member put a separate question."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" I shall amend my question, Sir. My question relates to the entire State of Madras."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I will allow the Hon. Minister to answer the second part of the question."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Let me repeat my question, Sir. Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that in many cases where the grant of licence was refused, it was refused on the pretext that the applicants did not serve as Police touts in detecting crimes in rural areas? The second part of my question is . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member has now left out ' Chingleput district ' from his question."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" The second part of the question is ' Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that proper reasons are not adduced while refusing these licences? ' This is *ultra vires* of the Constitution according to the judgment of the Madras High Court."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" This is a general question. The question under reply relates to South Kanara."

Repairs to the bridge near the Ramanathapuram irrigation tank.

* 1109 *Q.*—SRI G. GOVINDAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to repair the bridge near the Ramanathapuram irrigation tank?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The work of constructing a new bridge at about 200 feet upstream of the existing old bridge was sanctioned recently by the Central Government and will be taken up for execution shortly."

Assignment of 15 cents of land to each Harijan family in Malabar.

* 1110 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have directed the Collector of Malabar to expedite the assignment of house-sites (15 cents of land) to each Harijan family and adequate available cultivable land to the landless persons (Harijans); and

(*b*) if so, the extent of house-sites and lands so far assigned in the year 1953?